



# JERRY PETROWSKI

WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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April 20, 2017  
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## **Senator Petrowski Testifies on Bill in Opioid Prevention Package**

**Madison, WI...**Today, Senator Jerry Petrowski (*R- Marathon*) testified in front of the Senate Committee on Education on behalf of Special Session Assembly Bill 11. The bill, co-authored with Representative John Nygren (*R- Marinette*), would allocate \$200,000 annually for the establishment of a mental health training support program which will focus on combating substance abuse issues in children and adolescents.

“By providing this type of training to school staff we have the chance to identify potential addiction issues early on and get students the help they need before things spiral out of control,” said Senator Petrowski. “This is one of many things we’re doing at the state level to tackle the opioid abuse problem in Wisconsin.”

The program would provide training in screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment (SBIRT) to school staff. SBIRT is an evidence-based strategy to address issues of drug use, abuse, addiction and mental health challenges in children and adolescents. SBIRT helps connect students with trusted adults who are trained to counsel students to maneuver through tough situations as they face peer pressure to try drugs and alcohol.

“I appreciate the tireless work that Representative Nygren has put in over the years to combat drug addiction in our state,” said Senator Petrowski. “I’m happy to do my part to move these efforts forward.”

Last fall, Governor Walker created the Task Force on Opioid Abuse, chaired by Representative Nygren and Lt. Governor Rebecca Kleefisch, to advise and assist in the effort to address the opioid crisis in Wisconsin. This bill is part of a package of bills introduced as a result of recommendations made by the task force.

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